

April/May Study Newsletter

The update to the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) Guidelines is entering the sixth full month and the project team has made significant progress in developing guidelines for what will be known as Multimodal Transportation Analysis (MMTA). The past month has seen the development of proposed revisions to the Metro Code to address the new format of the more safety and multimodal-focused studies and developing the specific guidelines that will be provided to developers. During the next month, the project team will be focused on getting the Code revisions before Metro Planning Commission and obtaining feedback on the draft guidelines.

Development Mobility Study Guidelines

To support NDOT's commitment to building and maintaining a thriving transportation network that supports the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, the 2004 TIS Guidelines are being transformed into Multimodal Transportation Analysis Studies (MMTA). At the core, the new, MMTA will:

- Provide an overview of the proposed development's size and use,
- Evaluate the impacts of the proposed development on the adjacent transportation network through an analysis of traffic operations, multimodal mobility, and safety,
- Propose mitigation measures that offset the impact of the proposed development on the adjacent transportation network and support the improvement of traffic operations, multimodal mobility, and safety.

The new guidelines will provide specific requirements for proposed developments based on the intensity of development, available transportation modes in the area, and area type. While the guidelines will be more comprehensive, focusing on all modes than the previous guidelines, the intent is to right-size the study requirements and to streamline the process. This will allow developers to focus on the elements which are most applicable to the transportation network in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

Code Changes

Revisions to Section 17.20.140 will be required to support the modernization of the guidelines. The revisions will not be changing the minimum threshold for requiring a study to be completed but will make the following changes:

- Update references from traffic impact study to multimodal transportation analysis
- Provide descriptions of the two possible levels of study: Access Analysis and Impact Analysis
- Update codified approvers to be NDOT for transportation related elements and dual approvals (NDOT and Planning) for MPC applications
- Update required review/approval timelines to be in line with current Metro review schedule

Stakeholder Meeting #2

The second stakeholder engagement meeting was held on Thursday, April 27th. The meeting was held virtually to provide the most opportunity for the development community to join. The meeting had 43 attendees and focused on providing an overview of the proposed guideline changes to the community. In addition to sharing information, the meeting had several feedback opportunities which allowed attendees to ask questions or provide feedback on the recommendations.

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

The following key activities are planned to take place over the next month:

Finalize Guidelines

The first version of the draft guideline document was submitted to NDOT on April 7th. The project team has conducted NDOT-internal focus group meetings with four groups to receive feedback on the draft. Additionally, good feedback was received from the stakeholder session. The team is currently preparing the second version of the guideline document for NDOT review.

The guidelines are slated to be substantially complete with the second draft and finalization will coincide with the anticipated code amendment later this summer.

Code Amendment Readings and Approvals

To facilitate the implementation of the new guidelines, several amendments to Section 17.20.140, The draft changes are finalizing staff review and are anticipated to be included on the agenda for the May 11th Metro Planning Commission meeting.

Staying Connected to the Study

A [project webpage](#) has been set up to share information with the public about this study. While we will mainly be reaching out to stakeholders through professional organizations, there is a contact form on the website to sign up for direct e-mails on feedback opportunities and updates.

For NDOT and Nashville Metro staff, we will be sending out monthly e-mail updates on the status of the study and upcoming activities so you can stay informed on the progress of this exciting project.

If you have additional questions or want to discuss any element further, please reach out to NDOT Project Manager Melisa Hancock at melisa.hancock@nashville.gov or (615) 862-5056.